



No. 29

July 10, 2003

S. 1383 – Legislative Branch Appropriations, FY 2004

Calendar No. 189

Reported on July 9, 2003 by the Committee on Appropriations as an original bill; no written report.

NOTEWORTHY

- The Committee recommends new budget authority of \$2,505,583,000 for the legislative branch, for fiscal year 2004. This total is \$190,843,000 below the budget request and \$63,845,000 above the fiscal year 2003 level. (The bill excludes House items pursuant to the normal protocol.) The bill provides \$718.4 million for operations of the Senate.
- The House passed its Legislative Branch spending bill, H.R. 2657, on July 9, 2003, by a vote of 394-26. That bill provides \$1.01 billion for operations of the House of Representatives.
- Title III of S. 1383 provides \$1.89 billion in emergency FY03 supplemental spending, the amount requested by the President on July 7. The funds provided are: \$1.55 billion for disaster relief and emergency assistance; \$50 million to cover expenses for responding to the Space Shuttle Columbia accident; and \$289 million for wildfire suppression and emergency rehabilitation activities. (The House bill did not provide FY03 supplemental appropriations.) During markup, the committee agreed to an amendment to provide \$100 million in emergency FY03 supplemental funds for AmeriCorps not requested by the President.
- S. 1383 includes an increase of \$32.5 million over the current amount for Capitol Police salaries, to enhance the security of the U.S. Capitol. It also provides \$357.8 million for the Architect of the Capitol.
- The bill includes \$47.8 million for additional funds needed to complete the Capitol Visitor Center project. This amount is based on the GAO's review of the project and its assessment of a cost-to-complete estimate prepared by a third party.

Bill Provisions

Title I, Senate Operations. Among the costs of the Senate's congressional operation for fiscal year 2004 are the following:

- \$718.4 million for the Senate, an increase of \$50.7 million over the FY03 appropriation.
- \$136.8 million for the expenses of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$22.4 million more than the amount for FY03.
- \$310 million for the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, \$20 million more than the amount appropriated in FY03.

Title I, Joint Items. The bill provides \$19.1 million for Joint Items, including the Joint Economic Committee (\$4.0 million) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (\$8.1 million), and increase of \$1.8 million the FY03 appropriation.

Title I, Capitol Police. The bill provides \$207 million for the salaries of the U.S. Capitol Police, a \$32.5 million increase from the FY03 appropriated level. The increase is needed primarily to increase staffing over the fiscal year 2003 approved level, as well as to accommodate cost-of-living pay increases and new benefit programs. The recommendation includes 1,771 sworn officers, consistent with the recommendation of several security studies conducted in the last few years. Owing to the slow hiring of civilian staff in fiscal year 2003, coupled with the lack of a strategic plan, the Committee has reduced salary funding from the requested level for fiscal year 2004 for civilian positions.

The bill also provides \$33 million for general expenses of the Capitol Police, an increase of \$4.1 million over FY03, excluding the supplemental. Fiscal year 2003 savings of approximately \$10 million from the salaries account are being redeployed for fiscal year 2004 expense requirements.

Title I, Other Congressional Agencies. The bill provides \$33.6 million for the Congressional Budget Office, a \$1.7 million increase over FY03 levels; the Architect of the Capitol receives \$357.8 million, \$38.4 million less than the amount appropriated in FY03. This includes \$71.7 million for General Administration, \$27.8 million for the Capitol Building, \$63.4 million for the Senate Office Buildings, \$89.0 million for the Capitol Power Plant, and \$47.8 million for the Capitol Visitor Center. There was no request for funds included in the President's budget for the visitor center, nor were there funds appropriated for this purpose in the House passed bill.

The bill includes \$522.7 million for the Library of Congress, an increase of \$19.6 million over the FY03 appropriated levels. The bill provides \$91.7 million for the Congressional Research Service, an increase of \$3.5 million over the FY03 level. The bill provides \$91.1 million for the Government Printing

Office, an increase of \$1.6 million over the FY03 level. The General Accounting Office is provided \$462.1 million, a \$9.1 million increase over FY03 levels.

Title II, General Provisions. Included are several routine general provisions carried annually in the bill.

Title III, Fiscal Year 2003 Emergency Supplemental. The bill provides a total of \$1.99 billion in FY03 emergency supplemental spending, all but \$100 million of which was requested by the President in a supplemental request received July 7.

The bulk of the funding, \$1.5 billion, is for the Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Disaster Relief Fund to cover necessary expenses under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Fund. The Department estimates that it will exhaust its current funding by the end of July 2003, in part due to higher-than-expected costs for disaster relief, including funding for tornados and winter storms.

Also, the committee provides \$289 million for wildfire suppression and emergency rehabilitation activities, of which \$253 million goes to the U.S. Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture, and \$36 million goes to the Bureau of Land Management in the Interior Department. There are already major wildfires burning in Arizona and New Mexico that have destroyed hundreds of homes and tens of thousands of acres in dry, bug-infested forests that are in dire need of effective management. The governors of both states have declared state emergencies.

Additionally, the bill provides \$50 million for NASA to cover necessary expenses for responding to the Space Shuttle Columbia accident. This will be in excess of the \$50 million provided by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations bill for FY03 (P.L. 108-7) passed in January.

Finally, the supplemental provides \$11 million to the Corps of Engineers for the Grand Forks Flood Control Project, Grand Forks, ND.

The Committee also agreed to add \$100 million (unrequested) for the AmeriCorps program, provided that the Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service shall conduct random audits of the Corporation and the grantees that administer activities under the AmeriCorps programs, and shall de-fund any grantee that has been determined to have committed any substantial violations of the requirements of the AmeriCorps program.

Administration Position

The Statement of Administration Policy was unavailable at press time.

Possible Amendments

Senator Clinton may offer an amendment to add an additional \$100 million in FY03 supplemental appropriations for AmeriCorps.